

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying users of a plurality of computers within an organization's communications network, comprising:

a database storing the organization's directory information, the directory information including user identification information but not requiring a list of devices for a plurality of users authorized to use the plurality of computers within the communications network;

a ~~name~~-discovery apparatus for extracting ~~Internet Protocol and electronic mail addresses~~ user identification information and associated Internet Protocol addresses, having at least one connection to a primary switch in the communications network for passively monitoring capturing inbound and outbound electronic mail traffic thru the primary switch; and

a server, connected to the name discovery apparatus and having access to the database via the communications network, the server having a server process capable of ~~joining said inbound and outbound electronic mail traffic captured by said name discovery apparatus and said directory information stored in said database, wherein~~ which of the plurality of users is using which of the plurality of computers matching the user identification information from the directory information with the user identification information and current Internet Protocol addresses extracted by the discovery apparatus, creating a relationship between the directory information and current Internet Protocol addresses of computers currently in use by a contact in the directory information.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the communications network is a local area network.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 2, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the local area network is an Ethernet network.

4. (Deleted)

5. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a central repository, accessible by ~~said name~~ the discovery apparatus and a Web server, for storing the ~~said inbound and outbound electronic mail~~ traffic monitored ~~captured~~ by ~~said name~~ the discovery apparatus.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the database is ~~a~~ an ITU-T X.500-formatted database.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the database contains ~~at least one of the~~ following fields of data ~~relating to said plurality of users~~: (i) First Name; ~~(ii) Last Name; and (iii) E-mail Address and Last Name; and (ii) electronic mail address and/or user name.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the server process is a Web server process capable of responding to browser-based queries to identify which ~~of said plurality of users~~ user is using which ~~of the plurality of computers~~ computer.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, ~~wherein said inbound and outbound electronic mail traffic captured by said name discovery apparatus includes at least one of the following: (i) POP electronic mail traffic; (ii) IMAP electronic mail traffic; and (iii) SMTP electronic mail traffic~~ 7, wherein the database also contains one of the following fields of data: (i) Middle Initial; (ii) Nick Names; (iii) Name Aliases; (iv) Building; (v) Room; (vi) Permanent E-mail; (vii) Temporary E-mail; or (viii) Affiliation/Organization.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying users of a plurality of computers within an organization's communications network, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring capturing inbound and outbound electronic mail traffic from through a at ~~least one~~ primary switch in the communications network;

~~extracting Internet Protocol addresses and electronic mail addresses~~ user
identification information and associated Internet Protocol addresses from ~~said captured the~~
monitored inbound and outbound electronic mail traffic;

accessing a database of the organization's directory information, ~~for a plurality of~~
~~users authorized to use the plurality of computers within the communications network, said~~
database the directory information comprising a plurality of ~~electronic mail addresses~~ user
identification information but not requiring a list of devices ~~each corresponding to one of said~~
~~plurality of users; and~~

~~joining said extracted electronic mail addresses~~ matching the user identification
information from the directory information with ~~said plurality of electronic mail addresses~~
~~stored in said database, thereby mapping a subset of said extracted Internet Protocol~~
~~addresses to a subset of said plurality of users wherein which of the plurality of users is using~~
~~which of the plurality of computers is identified~~ the user identification information and
current Internet Protocol addresses extracted by the discovery apparatus, creating a
relationship between the directory information and current Internet Protocol addresses of
computers currently in use by a contact in the directory information.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, further comprising the step of:
~~storing said extracted Internet Protocol addresses and electronic mail addresses~~ the
user identification information and associated Internet Protocol addresses in a central
repository.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
accessing ~~[[said]]~~ the central repository; and
producing a data file, on a pre-determined time interval, ~~[[said]]~~ the data file
containing information on which ~~of said plurality of users~~ user used which ~~of the plurality of~~
~~computers~~ computer during ~~[[said]]~~ the pre-determined time interval.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[10]] 32, wherein [[said]] the extracting step comprises the step of:

using pattern matching based upon a known electronic mail protocol and/or authentication protocol to extract ~~said Internet Protocol addresses and said electronic mail addresses~~ the electronic mail address and/or user name and associated Internet Protocol address from ~~said captured~~ the monitored ~~inbound and outbound electronic mail~~ traffic.

14. (Deleted)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the communications network is a local area network.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein [[said]] the local area network is an Ethernet network.

17. (Deleted)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein [[said]] the database is a ~~an~~ ~~ITU-T X.500~~ formatted database.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, further comprising the step of: receiving, via the communications network, a query to identify a user of ~~one of the plurality of computers~~ a computer within the communications network, [[said]] the query including an Internet Protocol address; and

responding to [[said]] the query using the matching ~~said mapping~~ of [[said]] a subset of [[said]] the extracted Internet Protocol addresses ~~to said~~ with a subset of ~~said plurality of~~ users, [[and]] using [[said]] the received Internet Protocol address.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein [[said]] the database ~~further comprises at least one of~~ contains the following fields of data ~~for each of said plurality of users~~: (i) First Name and Last Name; and (ii) electronic mail address and/or user

name; (ii) Last Name; (iii) Middle Initial; (iii) Nick Names; (iv) Name Aliases; (v) Building; (vi) Room; (vii) User Name; and (viii) Affiliation/Organization.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 20, further comprising the step of: receiving, via the communications network, a query to identify a user of ~~one of the plurality of computers~~ a computer within the communications network, ~~[[said]] the~~ query including at least one of ~~[[said]] the~~ fields of data; and

responding to ~~[[said]] the~~ query using ~~said mapping~~ the matching of ~~[[said]] a~~ subset of ~~[[said]] the~~ extracted Internet Protocol addresses to ~~[[said]] a~~ subset of ~~said plurality of~~ users and using ~~said a~~ received ~~at least one of said fields~~ field of data.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having instructions and control logic stored therein for causing a computer to execute instructions to identify users of a plurality of terminals within an organization's communications network, ~~[[said]] the~~ control logic comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing the computer to ~~capture~~ monitor inbound and outbound electronic mail traffic ~~from at least one~~ through a primary switch in the communications network;

second computer readable program code means for causing the computer to extract ~~Internet Protocol addresses and electronic mail addresses~~ user identification information and associated Internet Protocol addresses from ~~said captured inbound and outbound electronic mail~~ the monitored traffic;

third computer readable program code means for causing the computer to access a database of the organization's directory information ~~for a plurality of users authorized to use the plurality of terminals within the communications network, said database~~ the directory information comprising ~~a plurality of electronic mail addresses~~ user identification

information but not requiring a list of devices, each corresponding to one of said plurality of users; and

fourth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to ~~join said extracted electronic mail addresses~~ match the user identification information from the directory information with ~~said plurality of electronic mail addresses stored in said database, thereby mapping a subset of said extracted Internet Protocol addresses to a subset of said plurality of users~~ the user identification information and current Internet Protocol addresses extracted by the discovery apparatus;

wherein the matching creates a relationship between the directory information and current Internet Protocol addresses of computers currently in use by a contact in the directory information ~~which of the plurality of users is using which of the plurality of computers is identified.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 22, further comprising:

fifth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to store ~~[[said]] the extracted Internet Protocol addresses and electronic mail addresses~~ user identification information and associated Internet Protocol addresses in a central repository.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 23, further comprising:

sixth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to access ~~[[said]]~~ the central repository; and

seventh computer readable program code means for causing the computer to create a data file, on a pre-determined time interval, ~~[[said]]~~ the data file containing information on which ~~of said plurality of users~~ user used which ~~of the plurality of terminals~~ terminal during ~~[[said]]~~ the pre-determined time interval.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim ~~[[22]]~~ 33, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the second computer readable program code means comprises:

fifth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to perform pattern matching based upon a known electronic mail protocol and/or authentication protocol to extract ~~said Internet Protocol addresses and said electronic mail addresses~~ the electronic mail address and/or user name and the associated Internet Protocol address from ~~said captured the monitored inbound and outbound electronic mail~~ traffic.

26. (Deleted)

27. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 22, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the database is ~~a~~ an ITU-T X.500-formatted database.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 22, further comprising:

fifth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive, via the communications network, a query to identify a user of ~~one of the plurality of terminals~~ a terminal within the communications network, ~~[[said]]~~ the query including an Internet Protocol address; and

sixth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to respond to ~~[[said]]~~ the query using ~~[[said]]~~ the matching mapping of ~~[[said]]~~ a subset of ~~[[said]]~~ the extracted Internet Protocol addresses ~~to said~~ with a subset of ~~said plurality of~~ users, and using a received Internet Protocol address.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 22, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the database ~~further comprises at least one of~~ contains the following fields of data ~~for each of said plurality of users:~~ (i) First Name and Last Name; and (ii) electronic mail address and/or user name; ~~(ii) Last Name; (iii) Middle Initial; (iii) Nick Names; (iv) Name Aliases; (v) Building; (vi) Room; (vii) User Name; and (viii) Affiliation/Organization.~~

30. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 29, further comprising:

fifth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive, via the communications network, a query to identify a user of ~~one of the plurality of terminals~~ a terminal within the communications network, ~~[[said]] the query including at least one of said fields~~ a field of data; and

sixth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to respond to ~~[[said]] the query using [[said]] the mapping~~ matching of ~~[[said]] a subset of [[said]] the extracted Internet Protocol addresses to said~~ with a subset of said ~~plurality of users, [[and]] using a received at least one of said~~ the fields of data.

31. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the user identification includes an electronic mail address and/or a user name.

32. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein the user identification includes an electronic mail address and/or a user name.

33. (New) The computer program product of Claim 22, wherein the user identification includes an electronic mail address and/or a user name.

34. (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein the database also contains one of the following fields of data: (i) Middle Initial; (ii) Nick Names; (iii) Name Aliases; (iv) Building; (v) Room; (vi) Permanent E-mail; (vii) Temporary E-mail; or (viii) Affiliation/Organization.

35. (New) The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein the database also contains one of the following fields of data: (i) Middle Initial; (ii) Nick Names; (iii) Name Aliases; (iv) Building; (v) Room; (vi) Permanent E-mail; (vii) Temporary E-mail; or (viii) Affiliation/Organization.